



2017/2052(INI)

6.12.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Budgets

on the next MFF: preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020
(2017/2052(INI))

Rapporteur: Helga Trüpel

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Believes that the end of the 2014-2020 programming period, along with the changed European and international political environment, warrant a rethink of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) structure, so as to adapt it to the needs of the Union; urges therefore the Commission and the Member States to duly assess the potential consequences and effects of Brexit, initiate a comprehensive reform of the MFF and provide the necessary financial resources in order to prevent Brexit from having any negative effects either on the level of funding earmarked for EU-wide cooperation programmes in the fields of culture, education, media, youth, sports and research, or on the people working in the relevant sectors;
2. Expresses support for programmes in the areas of culture, education, media, youth, sports, and research and citizenship that have clearly demonstrated their European added value and enjoy lasting popularity among beneficiaries and calls for a significant increase in commitment and payment appropriations and long-term and coordinated investments to guarantee the successful completion of their objectives in the post-2020 MFF;
3. Considers that the structure of the future MFF should respect, at a minimum, the following criteria:
 - i. Simplicity, that is, a reform of the headings that allows citizens to understand its objectives; believes that the programmes for education and training, youth, culture and sport should be collected under a single heading that reflects the various objectives of the programmes appropriately;
 - ii. Predictability, that is, a structure of the MFF and the related programmes allowing for sufficient long-term planning by beneficiaries; invites the Commission to maintain the structure of those programmes whose potential has not yet been fully exploited, including the cross-sectoral strand of Creative Europe, and in particular the Cultural and Creative Sector Guarantee Facility and its joint actions with the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI), which are crucial for support of cultural and creative industries;
 - iii. Transparency and democratic accountability, that is, the duration of the MFF should be aligned to the European electoral cycle; notes that the mismatch between the seven-year programming of the MFF and the ten-year programming of the political and strategic priorities of the EU could adversely affect the consistent evaluation of the results achieved by Union programmes; suggests therefore a MFF post-2020 with a duration of 10 years with a binding and meaningful revision after the first 5 years;
 - iv. Adaptability, as the experience of the MFF 2014-2020 has shown its inability to respond to emerging challenges without impacting existing programmes; believes more flexibility and wider margins are needed within the next MFF, along with the establishment of the principle of ‘new money for new initiatives’ in order to avoid financing new initiatives from the EU budget at the expense of existing EU programmes and policies; stresses, in that context, that long-term stability is

- essential for cultural and educational programmes; invites the Commission and the Council, therefore, to consider increasing the ceilings of commitment and payment appropriations in the future MFFs; takes the view that flexibility should make it possible for full use to be made of the MFF commitment and payment ceilings;
- v. Responsibility, as a matter of priority, action must be taken to prevent a new payment crisis from occurring during the current MFF; takes the view that great care should be taken to avoid the accumulation of outstanding arrears in the accounts, of the kind that were seen at the end of the last MFF (2007-2013) and at the beginning of the current one (2014-2020); expects an increase in commitment appropriations to be accompanied by a corresponding increase in appropriations for timely payments; regrets that the consequences of payment arrears are significant and have a particularly serious effect on small organisations in the education, culture and creative sectors, thereby also directly affecting beneficiaries of the EU budget, for example students, universities, SMEs and researchers;
4. Believes that adequate and long-term investments in education and culture are essential in order to allow EU citizens to effectively and actively participate in the political and democratic life of the EU;
 5. Firmly supports the need to reduce the contribution from GNI-based resources to the EU budget's own resources, in the context of a comprehensive reform of the system, in order to respect the letter and spirit of Article 311 of the TFEU;
 6. Notes with great concern the rise of social and economic inequalities, xenophobia, racism, nationalism, violent extremism and terrorism in Europe; calls, therefore, for effective prevention measures to be supported through increased funding for relevant EU programmes, including those that among other initiatives support educational strategies that foster European citizenship, social cohesion, tolerance and human rights, and promote open and inclusive European societies as the bedrock of our democratic model, in accordance with the Paris Declaration of 17 March 2015;
 7. Recognises the short and long-term challenges posed by the integration of cultural diverse refugees and migrants into European society for new arrivals and host societies; underlines the importance of cultural, educational and sport programmes in this regard, and calls for long-term and coordinated investments, together with an adequate increase in funding through current and future generations of Erasmus+, Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens programmes to support Member States in their efforts to achieve meaningful integration, while mainstreaming this support for cultural and educational programmes in other EU funds for integration such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF);
 8. Recognises the challenges facing the Union in the fields of education, culture, youth and citizenship, notably concrete accessibility to EU programmes, in particular for people with disabilities and the need to widen the scope of the programmes to address all young Europeans, including high school pupils and apprentices, reaching beyond university students, who currently make up the vast majority of beneficiaries; underlines, in this regard, the importance of cultural, educational, and sport

programmes, and calls for long-term and coordinated investments through current and future Erasmus+, Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens programmes to support Member States in their efforts;

9. Recalls that the Youth Guarantee Scheme and the Youth Employment Initiative are key tools for addressing the persistent problem of high levels of youth unemployment and calls for their continued improvement, as well as a substantial budget increase, within the framework of the European Social Fund; points out that policies supporting demand and investments, growth-enhancing structural reforms, and coordination in social policies are needed to support quality transitions for young people into the labour market in a sustainable way;
10. Stresses the need to reinforce existing programmes in the field of education and culture to further support employability of workers, particularly in Member States with high unemployment rates, and to foster the competitiveness of EU cultural industries;
11. Believes that the next MFF should provide dedicated funding for non-formal education, volunteer-based activities in the field of European citizenship education for young people in primary and secondary schools, in vocational education and training schools, and all other learning centres, as these kind of activities plays a major role in ensuring that the EU is 'taught' in many schools across Europe, raising the quality of European citizenship education overall, as well as indirectly fostering European identity and active civic engagement among young citizens;
12. Reiterates its support for also strengthening the external dimension of the Erasmus+ and Creative Europe cultural programmes as an important part of the people-to-people aspect of the EU strategy for international cultural relations, with a particular regard to low- and medium-income countries as well as specific mobility schemes for young artists and professionals working in the cultural and creative sectors; is of the opinion that the external dimension of the new programme European Solidarity Corps should be strengthened;
13. Calls for continuous investment in the current and future ET2020 framework, Erasmus+, Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens programmes to provide space for youth organisations to continue reaching out to young people and providing them with valuable competences and life skills through lifelong learning, learner-centred and non-formal education and informal learning opportunities, particularly volunteering and youth work;
14. Stresses that the increased investment in Erasmus+ must allow the programme to have a broader reach in order to include more ambitious opportunities for mobility for VET learners, vulnerable young people and young people suffering from multiple discrimination and barriers, including people with disabilities, people identifying as LGBTI and people coming from marginalised communities, as well as pupils in the context of school exchanges;
15. Calls for investing ten times more in the Erasmus+ Successor Programme for the next MFF cycle in order to reach out to many more young people and learners across Europe and achieve the full potential of the programme supporting the call made by President Juncker in his State of the Union speech and by several European leaders as well as by

the coalition of civil society organisations behind the ‘Erasmusx10’ campaign; points out that the current Erasmus+ programme accounts for only 1.36 % of the overall EU budget 2014-2020 and will only benefit 4 million Europeans by the end of its implementation in 2020;

16. Stresses the importance of the timely approval of the post-2020 MFF and associated programme regulations in preventing problems in programme implementation and keeping the transition period between the current and forthcoming periods to a minimum;
17. Considers that, given the still high number of European citizens with poor literacy skills or literacy difficulties, including functional and media illiteracy, and with some 40 % of EU workers lacking adequate digital skills and 44 % of the population having low or no basic digital skills, the next MFF must set aside substantial additional resources – above and beyond existing education programmes – to boost digital skills through enhanced education, vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities, and to support digitalisation of education and cultural resources in order to improve and enhance their quality and accessibility; stresses furthermore that digital skills initiatives must encompass both basic life skills, such as media and digital literacy, and specific job skills, such as coding; insists that the new MFF should offer an opportunity to frame a holistic EU policy on digital skills;
18. Stresses the importance of addressing social exclusion and including persons from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure they have full and equal access to both culture and education;
19. Welcomes the Commission’s initiative for the creation of the European Solidarity Corps as a programme to foster solidarity amongst young Europeans and recommends its continuation in the next MFF with increased budget and as an element of the EU’s youth policy framework;
20. Recognises the importance of cultural and creative industries (CCIs) for the social and economic development of the EU and its Member States and recommends to develop a coordinated policy framework that addresses the specific needs for the further development and promotion of the sector;
21. Stresses the need to take necessary measures to improve accessibility and implementation of programmes by reducing bureaucracy, possibly through simplification, flexibility and synergy between programmes, and to prevent late payments or a backlog of unpaid bills;
22. Recognises the importance of safeguarding both natural and cultural heritage and harnessing their potential as economic drivers;
23. Calls for a greater emphasis on quality traineeships and apprenticeships and increased participation by young Europeans in the policy-making processes.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	4.12.2017
Result of final vote	+: 14 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Andrea Bocskor, Silvia Costa, María Teresa Giménez Barbat, Giorgos Grammatikakis, Petra Kammerevert, Stefano Maullu, Luigi Morgano, Sabine Verheyen, Julie Ward, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Milan Zver
Substitutes present for the final vote	Norbert Erdős, Hermann Winkler
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Sylvie Goddyn

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

14	+
ALDE	María Teresa Giménez Barbat
PPE	Andrea Bocskor, Norbert Erdős, Stefano Maullu, Sabine Verheyen, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Hermann Winkler, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Milan Zver
S&D	Silvia Costa, Giorgos Grammatikakis, Petra Kammerevert, Luigi Morgano, Julie Ward

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ENF	Sylvie Goddyn

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Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention